

Despite persistent resistance from the Democrat-led Senate and White House, the battle to repeal Obamacare continues on multiple fronts in the House of Representatives. This past week I voted to repeal a major provision of President Obama's health care law.

On February 1, 2012, the House voted 267 to 159 to terminate a new long-term care entitlement program, known as the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) program. CLASS was originally included in the president's health care bill to help disguise part of Obamacare's massive cost.

CLASS's up-front infusion of revenues into Obamacare masked as much as \$80 billion of the true price tag of the controversial new health care law. However, CLASS has itself been discredited in recent months.

Last October, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius conceded that CLASS was not financially solvent. "But despite our best analytical efforts, I do not see a viable path forward for CLASS implementation at this time," She said.

However, admitting that CLASS is a total failure would undermine the president's overall health care law of which it is a part, so the Obama administration has taken no action to formally end the failed CLASS program. House Republicans took steps to do that on our own last week.

CLASS was a ticking time bomb from the beginning. In October 2009, the Democrat chairman of the Senate Budget Committee described CLASS as "a Ponzi scheme of the first order, the kind of thing Bernie Madoff would be proud of."

Wednesday's vote to kill the CLASS provision of Obamacare comes a little over a year after I joined my colleagues in the House in voting to repeal Obamacare outright.

I opposed Obamacare when it originally passed the House in 2009 and in 2010, and I support House Republican efforts to defund it and continue to press for its total repeal despite strong

opposition from the Senate and the president.

I favor replacing Obamacare with fiscally responsible reforms; including, offering Americans the ability to purchase health insurance across state lines, expanding access to health savings accounts, and offering the right to coverage regardless of pre-existing conditions. Furthermore, I support measures to lower health care costs, including medical liability reform.

Voting to Freeze Congressional Pay:

On February 1, 2012, I voted for legislation to freeze the salaries of Members of Congress and their staff as well as civilian federal workers through 2013. The pay freeze legislation passed the House, 309 to 117, and now advances to the Senate.

Members of Congress and federal employees have not received a cost of living raise in two years. The legislation would extend the pay freeze for another year.

At a time when the country is suffering from sustained, record-high unemployment and many families and small businesses have reduced their expenses, it is only fair that Congress and the federal government continue to exercise fiscal restraint.

U.S. Service Academy Nominees:

I am pleased to announce the nomination of 28 South Alabama young men and women to the U.S. service academies for candidacy in the Class of 2016.

The service academies for which I make nominations include the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD, the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, at King's Point, NY.

I have submitted the following names to the various academies for their review and final selection. Those candidates who are accepted will enter the academies this summer.

* Ben Andrews of Daphne

* Ally Beach of Fairhope

* Chris Boudreaux of Mobile

* Will Burch of Fairhope

* Dan Drew of Mobile

* Garrett Franklin of Satsuma

* Trevor Graham of Mobile

* Josh Harrelson of Mobile

* Wendell Johnson of Mobile

* Justin Joiner of Mobile

* Cole Manders of Spanish Fort

* Keenan McDonald of Mobile

* Tom Moore of Mobile

* Alan Mueller of Mobile

* Patricia Neno of Mobile

* Carson Orwig of Grove Hill

* Chris Pate of Jackson

* Ben Patterson of Mobile

* Madeleine Philpot of Mobile

* Christian Polka of Summerdale

* Alana Rister of Mobile

* Danny Rose of Spanish Fort

* Keaton Taylor of Fairhope

* Bud Tempero of Vredenburgh

* Gerson Tuneck of Robertsdale

* Tim Wilson of Saraland

* Paul Womack of Eight Mile

* Ryan Wright of Mobile

If we can ever be of service, do not hesitate to call my office toll free at 1-800-288-8721.

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